

Mr. Lamb: If I were you, I would be ashamed to publish or circulate this. It is at variance with all we know about Jesus, and a complete misrepresentation.

# Jesus: a Capitalist

By

RAY CARROLL



This is the kind of defense capitalism must make of itself - God help it!

## About the Author

Ray Carroll planned to earn an education, but the Klondike gold rush of 1897 lured him away from the classrooms of the University of Nebraska. In time, he became a professional man of a sort, as editor and lecturer.

Finding only a small poke of gold in the placer mines, Ray turned to steamboating, coal mining, cattle raising and politics, along with several bouts with type cases and editorial desks.

The ways of politics led to a career in the Montana State Senate at a time when the state was becoming infested with Communists. While the Harold Ware cell was making fine progress toward capturing the national capital, Hal's mother, known the world over as Mother Bloor, was busy in Montana.

With such a well-heeled gang taking Moscow's orders relayed by Mother Bloor, the Communist clan was doing extremely well in labor, education and industry throughout the Northwest, with notable success in Montana Farmers Union.

Thus Ray learned about Communism by rubbing elbows with party men and battling against their measures on the senate floor. As for the Communist doctrines, they are nonsense, as he found by studying them, and considering all available information about their wild-eyed and frowzy prophet, Karl Marx.

Convinced that Marx actually was a mental case, Ray wrote a most revealing study of him under the title "The Pixylated Prophet," now under revision for a third edition.

For several years the Montana Guardian, edited and published by this man of many activities, was must reading for anti-Socialists in the Northwest. Exactions of the printers' union laid the Guardian.

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Communists and their fellow travelers have doggerel verses and songs using the name of Jesus Christ. Some of the rhymes are stupid, many of them are blasphemous; but as a side-light on their muddled ways of thinking, we see that the writers pretend to believe that our Savior preached doctrines akin to their own collective beliefs.

True enough, when He liquidated His business as a building contractor to become a missionary, Jesus relinquished all earthly possessions. It is fair to believe, literally, as it is written in (II Cor. 8:9) that He was quite well-to-do, as riches would go in those days in Nazareth.

Jesus was schooled in the Jewish laws; He proved this when He visited the Temple at the age of twelve. As did the Pharisees, Jesus believed in strict observance of the law. Perhaps, like Paul, He was a Pharisee. At any rate, in His book, the Levites, Temple assistants, could possess no property, and lesser people were required to care for them.

The words He addressed to those who would go with him on his mission were, "Sell all that thou hast, and follow me";

but certainly you could not go on running your store, or your farm, and become an

Jesus' family was very poor - as proved by the offering of doves in place of a lamb, which was permissible only to those who were too poor to be able to offer a lamb. See Lk. 2:24; Lev. 5:7; 12:6; 14:22

II Cor. 8:9 can refer only to his "riches" before his incarnation. See Phil 2:7. It could not possibly refer to possessions.

the son of a carpenter, Joseph, there is no evidence that he ever was and in fact, he was a contractor

There is no evidence that either Jesus or Joseph ever contracted anything. Apparently Joseph died while Jesus was still an Apostle merely as a side line. The job of an Apostle would take all you had in you.

Until past thirty years, a mature age for the day, Jesus worked with his father in the construction business, contributing toward the support of the parents and their large and growing family. Necessarily, Joseph and Son were small contractors, and as sober and skillful men, prospered as such. Anything needed they must be ready to build or repair. There was no labor union to meddle with prices and wages. Prices were fixed in the natural way, by haggling. Joseph and Son were entrepreneurs, what Karl Marx would call petit-bourgeoisie.

#### Competition Sets Prices

The father and son fixed their prices in competition, low bidder to win. They bought lumber and findings from the caravans, from the hardest and shrewdest of traders, who would do them out of their eye-teeth unless themselves were equally hard and shrewd. The perfect understanding of human nature revealed in the parables and the lessons did not merely happen. It was the voice of ripe experience with self-seeking humanity.

Carpenters in crowded Nazareth could build an extra room, or a stairway, for a growing family. They could repair the broken chairs, tables and doors, and design and build ornamental woodwork for those rulers and rich men the apostles have written about, and almost always at a fixed price reached by ne-

gotiating, or in plain words, haggling. The work was done on credit; you cannot collect for carpenter work in advance. Ask any carpenter. They collected the money the hard way, it stands to reason.

Read about the talents, and the workers in the vineyard; business was business in Nazareth, as it is here today. Human nature then was just what it is now. A family man, working on one of the ships of Simon Bar-Jona might break his dinner table, or the reel for drying his nets. Right away he needed repairs, in a hurry, and there would be no money until the fish were sold. He could not wait to save up the needed coppers, and it would not be good business for Jesus to refuse to do the work for his client, so he would do it, risking his materials; but he would know that he must keep a sharp eye out on payday, otherwise old Zebedee never would get beyond the tavern with a farthing. Booze was booze in Nazareth then, just as it is in Washington city today.

#### Capable Business Men

Jesus and his father were capable business men, who collected their just dues on the nail, otherwise they would not have lasted long in the carpenter business, certainly not for nearly twenty years. Instead, the old man would have been found following the fishing fleet, for day's wages, or swamping around some tavern. When a customer owed them, they got their money.

Nobody knows how long Joseph lasted as a carpenter - or whether he went flat broke before he was 30 years old!

*About 40% of the income of Jews was collected in tithes, imposts etc. Roman and Jewish*

The money was their own, except for the dues to the synagogue, which was voluntary, and the imposts of the steward of Herod Antipas. Joseph and Son paid their just dues and saved up capital to provide the next consignment of fir and cedar, and laid aside the needful for the support of the family. What could be spared from the business went for aid to the worthy poor.

There was no socialism in Nazareth of any kind or shape, and Jesus in all his life never uttered a word which would encourage the tyrant, or the civic leader, to tax by force the substance of the people and distribute the money according to his own whim. "Render unto Caesar" — what Caesar did with his goods was between himself and his Creator, who would settle the score with him in due time, as promised.

#### Socialistic Distortions

Certainly, the elderly English socialist, George Bernard Shaw, with his tongue in his cheek, led many to believe that the Apostle Peter, the leader of the early Christians, established communism among them. After the Pentecost, they "had all things in common; neither any lacked; those who believed sold possessions — as every man had need." Some will say this was communism, as Shaw would have us think; but in fact it was not. Here was a spirited religious revival; three thousand were converted in one day. As at

*This is pure fiction - with exactly the same justification as that of one of our old-fashioned camp meetings, where people ate and drank as they could, and shared what they had, for the time, and devoted themselves to religious activities.*

Peter, the practical capitalist, rustled up the use of some warehouses in Jerusalem for sleeping quarters, and saw to it that the devotees were provided for. This was not a way of life, such as communism, but a temporary provision for immediate need. Now comes Shaw, the trouble maker, and hints that Peter struck Ananias, and his wife, Sapphira, for not turning over all they had to the commune. The Bible does not say any such thing. Nobody says so except the modern communists.

#### Ananias' Deadly Fraud

The story which is told by St. Paul, in the fifth chapter of The Acts, is quite different. Not all of Ananias' property is mentioned, but only that "He sold a possession", saying it was in support of Peter's activities, and implying that the proceeds, which presumably were augmented by the interest of the buyers in the cause, were to be entrusted to Peter and the others.

Then Ananias brought only part of the funds to the apostles, concealing the rest, which was a fraud.

Peter read his evil secret, and upbraided Ananias, not for withholding the property "for was it not thine own?" but for his dishonesty. Peter did not "strike him dead," as averred by Shaw, not, St. Paul. Ananias doubtless

*\* This is sheer conjecture - or no evidence whatever*



had a poor heart condition, as so many older folk have, and shocked by the danger of the exposure before the great unfriendly multitude, the man fell dead.

A little later, the wife, Sapphira, hurried in, excited over the thought that they had obtained a considerable sum of money by false pretenses, and the public exposure along with the shock over the death of Ananias, caused her to fall dead also. St. Peter did not kill this couple. They killed themselves. Shaw merely made up the story. Good socialists, or communists, never stop at any sort of falsehood or deception to promote their ends.

Now all these things took place at Jerusalem, during the first great wave of the Christian movement, which, contrary to the expectations of Shaw and his fellow agnostics, continues at an accelerated pace in these very days. People flocked to join the Church of Jesus Christ, and as they were for the time missionaries, they shared the necessities of their lives, as missionaries and pastors of every sort are expected and compelled to do.

**Lesson of Catacombs**

In the dreadful catacombs of Rome, hiding from awful death, people cared for each other as well as they could, like brothers and sisters, as we would do today, in some atom bomb calamity, most certainly. There would be no trace of communism about it, but only humanity in extremis. Collectivism was not regarded as a practical way of life, but a way of avoidance of death.

\* This leaflet proves that some "good capitalists" do likewise

No evidence whatever in any part of this

Now St. Peter was looked up to as a leader by the early Christians, not by reason of some impractical idealism, nor as an item of their religion, but by reason of the strength and understanding obtained in his life as a capitalist. Having employed a group of mariners, collected the value of his products, and met his payroll, he was one of the outstanding capitalists of the lot, distinctly petit-bourgeois. The others were mostly common laborers, workers of gardens and vineyards, irrigation ditches and caravans.

**Peter: Business Man**

Peter was a strong man, in body and mind, a practical man of affairs. Had he been an idealist, a mere do-gooder giving away the rights and substance of others through his kindly whims, the group would have failed, an economic collapse. The man had his ships to maintain and manage, his hands to hire and fire, and his products to market. Just as it had been with Jesus, he had to get his money and keep it together, or he would have gone out of business faster than he went in. The fish Peter had to sell in Nazareth and the teeming countryside, and in the palaces of Herod.

Now there must have been many thousands of people about, men of the stables and the vineyards, and servants like locusts. To feed these multitudes the fish of the nearby sea were a great resource. Peter knew how to wangle a contract from the slickers and ras-

No evidence that he ever made a contract of any kind.

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only way to find any one. No evidence that he ever hired or fired anyone.

Early Christians did not look up to Peter as having more - for he was rough and uncouth as he was, he was nobody's fool. It took a good head, diligence and judgment to manage his operation. Naturally, these early Christians in Jerusalem looked up to Peter.

All said and done, the species of a commune or camp meeting in Jerusalem did not last very long. Such things never do. A thousand times the system has been tried, as by the first families in Jamestown and Plymouth. Always human nature proves the same. In the fervor of a great religious movement, as in time of war, people will exist and preserve themselves as best they can.

#### Lessons for Moderns

In stable times, one will save his earnings for the use of his own family, and do charity to others according to his lights. He will not endure to have third parties, such as political tyrants and their tax gatherers, take the fruits of his planning and toil away from him, to do charity for him in his place, and for their own self-glorification. Peter's early community scattered to the winds. The Christians remained no less true to their faith because they again began to do each for himself, as nature taught them, according to their ideas and abilities.

Neither Peter, nor Jesus Christ himself, was in any sense a collectivist. Not a word

What distinguished Christians was not that they took care of themselves as others did and as taught by "nature" but their care for others as taught by

of theirs ever told one of us to give up seeking his own pathway toward God, and join the hive, to find it for him. Never a word hinted at a welfare state. Such a thought would have been denounced by Jesus as He denounced the money changers in the Temple, who were part and parcel of the rule of religious and political oppressors of the people. Truth is, Jesus was crucified because His teachings endangered this totalitarian rule.

In Jesus' plan, each soul is accountable to God, not to preachers and politicians. Jesus was a capitalist, preaching a doctrine of individualism which is the basis of free enterprise, and for this the religious and political hierarchies contrived his death.

Completely untrue about the Author But rather (Continued from Page 2) individualism "six feet under," and now Ray's philosophical observations on the follies and follies in the national and world scenes appear in Freedom's Forum, a weekly news letter.

This letter is printed by the process which was used by the Chicago newspapers for many months during the most recent strike of printers in that city. It is gratefully received and eagerly read by editors, clergymen and others who are intrigued by something "different" and decidedly stimulating.

Thus, though now nominally retired, without benefit of Federal Old Age Pension, Ray keeps pounding away at the Communists and their fellow travelers.

And this little sketch about the author of this pamphlet would be incomplete, indeed, without the information that, all during his busy life, Ray has found time to read the Bible.

\* The Commonwealth of Israel was a strictly "welfare state" in which tithes, required "offerings" etc. were collected by the theocratic Christ state and distributed by it.

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<b>Single Copy</b>	<b>10 cents</b>
<b>15 Copies</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>100 Copies</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>1,000 Copies</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>

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